

The book is not above criticism. The local antiseptics mentioned, iodine and chlorothymol, are rarely used and there are a wealth of new and more adequate solutions. Although the use of penicillin, streptomycin, aureomycin and sulfa is given, the later, broader spectrum antibiotics are not mentioned.

The material on repair of lacerations and episiotomies is very limited.

In the description of cesarean section there is no mention of the transperitoneal transverse opening of the uterus which has gained popularity in many sections. The use of spinal anesthesia is given very little support. No mention is made of fetal abnormalities or of circumcision techniques. Moreover, the hazard of thromboembolic accidents following myomectomy at the time of cesarean section is not mentioned, and one could wish for a more detailed discussion of anticoagulant therapy.

However, the text is well arranged and well written, and the plates and charts are clear and to the point. Especially commendable is the arrangement of the historical data, biographical notes and pictures of the great men who have contributed to our knowledge and techniques. These are placed at the beginning or end of appropriate chapters without interfering with the text.

The appendix consists of 22 excellent x-ray reproductions covering the following subjects: Pelvimetry, presentations, multiple pregnancies, fetal anomalies and urological changes.

It is a valuable book for both students and practitioners.

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**BACTERIAL AND VIRUS DISEASES: Antisera, Toxoids, Vaccines and Tuberculins in Prophylaxis and Treatment**—H. J. Parish, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., D.P.H., Clinical Research Director, Wellcome Foundation Ltd. Second edition. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1951. 204 pages. \$2.50.

This little book is intended to be a brief guide to the use of biologics for the prevention or treatment of infectious disease. Brief descriptions of the histories of the development of many of the products and of the methods of preparation are included. It reflects essentially the points of view of the Wellcome Foundation in England. An excellent index makes the useful information in the book readily accessible.

The development of antimicrobial chemotherapy has superseded most of the antibacterial sera in therapy and this fact is recognized in the brief space devoted to them. The chapter might well be omitted.

Many of the other substances described for treatment and for the production of active immunity are of no or questionable value. Critiques permitting the inexperienced physician to choose between valuable or essential procedures and those without merit are not supplied. It would be necessary for him to consult other texts for this information. Most of these would contain descriptions of the techniques for the use of the effective biological materials. This book will be of little value to the practicing physician and is not sufficiently detailed and critical to find a place in the library of medical student or investigator.

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**A MANUAL OF ORTHOPTICS**—Julia E. Lancaster, M.A., San Francisco Ophthalmic Laboratory, San Francisco. Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Illinois, 1951. 199 pages. \$5.50.

This book has 191 pages of subject matter and is quite unique in that as a treatise on orthoptics it is a pioneer.

The book is divided into 18 chapters beginning with the functional development of visual skills in the child. The last chapter deals with orthoptics in the adult.

Between these two chapters the teaching of visual skills is very well handled, especially since this is a pioneer effort. In a later edition, some of the redundant material can be eliminated.

This book gives a practical approach to the evaluating and the development of visual skills both with and without the aid of surgery and of refraction. Since the work is largely with children, the proper handling and evaluating of a child is carefully and ably discussed. The varied forms of treatment are clearly given and could be followed with reasonable ease.

The discussions of anomalous correspondence, physiologic and non-physiologic diplopia, and suppression should be read by all ophthalmologists. The discussions are lucid and in the reviewer's opinion would be extremely valuable to the surgeon in his diagnosis, his evaluation of treatment, and his prognosis in each tropia case.

The chapters on treatment are easily comprehended and should be read by ophthalmologists as well as orthoptic technicians in order to better coordinate their treatment of their mutual cases.

The reviewer may be over-enthusiastic about this book, but he feels that it fills a much neglected area of understanding in the field of ophthalmology.

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**THE CHANGING YEARS**—Madeline Gray. Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1951. 224 pages. \$2.75.

The expressed purpose behind the production of this volume is certainly an admirable one. Every physician is recurrently appalled at the ignorance shown by women regarding their menstrual function, and in no facet is this more pronounced than in that part of the menstrual function which occurs at the time of the menopause. Undoubtedly this ignorance is the product of the taboos with which mankind, civilized and uncivilized, has been accustomed to surround sexual matters in general, especially those involving the female. Thus a simple explanation of the body physiology as it relates to menstruation, and in particular as it changes at the time of the menopause, is of great value.

It appears, from the long list of physicians and publications which the author has consulted and which is included in a separate section at the back of the book, that considerable time and effort have been expended in the preparation of "The Changing Years," and it is unfortunate that a better understanding of some of the matters which were heard and read was not gained before they were set down in black and white. A number of gross anatomicphysiological errors are evident, and some concepts which are presented as fact are in reality still the subject of considerable discussion and controversy. To the physician these defects are distracting, and detract from the value of the book as a whole. In the lay mind the menopause is already surrounded by so much superstition and fancy that one hesitates to recommend any statement which might tend to increase the confusion in the mind of an uncritical reader.

However, it would appear that by and large the great majority of women might well derive considerable degrees of comfort from the presentation of the subject as a whole. Great benefit should accrue from the attitude that the menopause is not a "change of life" in the sense that such an expression implies a total change of direction, but that it is simply one more of the progressive steps through which one inevitably passes during the course of life. The specific reassurances that the menopause does not necessarily mean cancer, or loss of sexual power and drive, or the approach to insanity, or any one of a host of other unpleasantnesses should bring readers a sense of relaxation which will tend to help them weather whatever difficulties their individual menopause may produce.